THE OFFICE

FOR THE

LAYING OF THE CORNER-STONE

OF THE

NURSES' HOME

OF THE

Hospital of the Protestant Episcopal Church
in Philadelphia

Thursday, June 15, 1899

The clergy and people being assembled about the place where the stone is to be laid, there shall be sung the 483d hymn.

Christ is made the sure foundation,
Christ the head and corner-stone,
Chosen of the Lord, and precious,
Binding all the Church in one;
Holy Sion's help forever,
And her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,
Dearly loved of God on high,
In exultant jubilation
Pours perpetual melody;
God, the One in Three adoring
In glad hymns eternally.

Here vouchsafe to all Thy servants
What they ask of Thee to gain,
What they gain from Thee, forever
With the blessed to retain,
And hereafter in Thy glory
Evermore with Thee to reign. AMEN.

Then shall the Bishop say:

Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

Answer—Who hath made heaven and earth.

Bishop—Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

Answer—Henceforth, world without end.

Bishop—The same stone which the builders refused;

Answer—Is become the headstone in the corner.

Bishop—Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

Answer—As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Bishop—Praise ye the Lord.

Answer—The Lord's Name be praised.

Then shall be read the following Psalm.

Psalm 101. Misericordiam et Judicium

My song shall be of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.

O let me have understanding: in the way of godliness !

When wilt thou come unto me: I will walk in my house with a perfect heart.

I will take no wicked thing in hand: I hate the sins of unfaithfulness: there shall no such cleave unto me.

A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Whoso privily slandereth his neighbor: him will I destroy.

Whoso hath also a proud look and high stomach: I will not suffer him.

Mine eyes look upon such as are faithful in the land: that they may dwell with me.

Whoso leadeth a godly life: he shall be my servant.

There shall no deceitful person dwell in my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Then one appointed shall read the Lesson, saying:

Hear the words of the Gospel written by Saint Luke, in the fourth Chapter, beginning at the fourteenth Verse.

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified of all.

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up: and as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet

Esaias. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written, The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And He closed the book, and gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on Him. And He began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare Him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. Here endeth the Lesson.

Then shall be said the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ His only son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried: He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost: The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the Life everlasting. Amen.

Then shall all present say the Lord's Prayer, the Bishop first saying:

The Lord be with you.

Answer—And with thy spirit.

Bishop—Let us pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation: But deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings, with Thy most gracious favour, and further us with Thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in Thee, we may glorify Thy Holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

O Lord, without whom our labour is but lost, and with whom Thy little ones go forth as the mighty; Prosper, we beseech Thee, the work of our hands upon us; O prosper Thou our handiwork. Direct the counsels of those to whom the building of this House is especially entrusted, that it may be ordered to Thy greatest glory and the best service of Thy people. Bless the skill of the architect, the master builders, and the workmen. Shield them at their work from bodily accident and harm. Blessed be Thy name, that it hath pleased Thee to put it into the hearts of Thy servants to devote their substance to the building of this house. Remember them, O God, concerning this, and bless them in mind, body and estate, and grant to all Thy labourers a pure intention, patient faith, sufficient success upon earth, and the blessedness of serving Thee in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Notice shall then be given of the contents of the corner-stone, after which the Bishop will say:

Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, even Jesus Christ, who when on earth went about doing good and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people, and who is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever: God over all blessed for evermore.

Then the Bishop, striking the stone three times with a hammer, will say:

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. I lay this corner-stone of a building to be known as The Nurses' Home, of the Hospital of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Philadelphia; that here true faith, the fear of God, and sisterly love may dwell, and that they who occupy this House may find it a place of rest and refreshment, and may continually go forth from it better prepared for the fulfillment of all their duties.

Then shall be sung the following Hymn:

HYMN 275.

O God of mercy! hearken now:
Before Thy throne we humbly bow;
With heart and voice to Thee we cry
For all on earth who suffering lie.

We seek Thee where Thou dwell'st on high,
Beyond the glittering, starry sky:
We find Thee where Thou dwell'st below
Beside the beds of want and woe.

Be ours the hearts and hands to bless
The sorrowing sons of wretchedness;
Send Thou the help we cannot give;
Bid dying souls arise and live.

Where poverty in pain must lie,
Where little suffering children cry,
Bid us haste forth as called by Thee,
And in Thy poor, Thyself to see.—AMEN.

Addresses.

HYMN 12.

Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide:
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away,
Change and decay in all around I see;
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence every passing hour;
What but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless:
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Bishop—Let Thy merciful kindness be upon us.

Answer—Like as we do put our trust in Thee.

Most gracious God, whose tender mercies are over all Thy works; we give Thee humble thanks for Thy great goodness towards this Hospital from the day of its first founding until now. We praise Thy holy Name for the good work it has accomplished, for the generous gifts bestowed on it, and for the gracious words spoken in its behalf, beseeching Thee to continue this Thy loving kindness unto children's children, to the glory of Thy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

O Lord, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; Send Thy Holy Ghost, and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee. Grant this for Thine only Son, Jesus Christ's sake. AMEN.

Then shall the Bishop let them depart with this blessing.

Unto God's gracious mercy and protection we commend you. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore. AMEN.